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## The Geneva Peace Congress.

The Nineteenth Universal Peace Congress, held at Geneva September 23 to 28, in spite of the lateness of the season, the distressingly cold weather, and the pitiful notices of it that appeared in some of the American papers, was a most successful, interesting, and useful gathering.

In point of numbers it compared favorably with most of the preceding international peace congresses. The enrollment reached something over 500, about 270 of whom were delegates and the rest individual members. Twenty countries were represented, namely, the United States, Germany, France, Austria, Russia, Italy, Spain, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, and Egypt. The countries most numerous represented were Germany, France, Great Britain, and Switzerland. There were fine delegations from Austria, Belgium, and Sweden. The lateness of the

season reduced the United States' representation very much. But the delegation, in spite of this fact, numbered 29, 20 of whom were official delegates, the rest individual members. Italy sent 26 delegates, in spite of the fact that her peace forces have been rent in twain by the Italo-Turkish war, and that the Lombard Peace Union, heretofore the leader in the movement in Italy, abstained from sending any official representatives.

The composition of the Congress, the size of the delegations from the European countries, and the general spirit of the meetings were a striking testimony to the deep and growing hold which the movement is taking on the Old World. The delegates were for the most part thoroughly serious and capable men and women, having a clear conception of the aims of the movement and sincerely and courageously consecrated to their realization. In this aspect of it the Congress impressed us as one of the most notable ever held. The devotion and courage of the European pacifists seemed to us to have been deepened and intensified by the discouraging events of the past year.

The Congress did its work, as heretofore, through committees made up of representatives of the different countries. Each national delegation was allowed two representatives on each of the committees, and any one who wished to do so was allowed to attend the meetings of the committees and hear the discussions. These committees examined in advance all the important topics on the program and presented resolutions for discussion and adoption. These resolutions covered a great variety of subjects and made an extended program, the closing parts of which had to be hurriedly pushed through at the end of the week. Prominent on the agenda were the subjects of limitation of armaments, arbitration treaties, a court of arbitral justice, the use of airships in war, the enforcement of arbitral awards, the causes of wars, commercial boycott as a means of preventing wars, peace education, propaganda work, and a number of questions of current politics, namely, Alsace-Lorraine, Tripoli and Morocco, Egypt, etc. Important resolutions were adopted on these various subjects, which we expect to give in full in a future number. The excellent resolution on limitation of armaments is printed on another page of this paper. The European pacifists feel with increasing force the burden and the irrationality of the great military and naval establishments, and this spirit was manifested throughout the proceedings of the Congress.

The confusion and disorder in the Congress on one or two occasions, on which certain American papers have laid such unwarranted stress, sprung in part

out of the difference of language and of methods of doing business, and in part out of radical difference of opinion on certain questions of the day which were discussed. Certain Italian delegates undertook to justify before the Congress the course which a section of the Italian pacifists had followed in supporting Italy's attack upon Turkey in Tripoli. Demonstrations of strong opposition immediately appeared, in which a very large portion of the Congress joined, and the uproar became so great that the speakers were compelled to give up trying to make themselves heard. Even this uproar, unseemly as it seemed to some, revealed in its way the intense hatred of war which is developing more and more among the European peoples. It was a gratification to learn that much the larger portion of the Italian pacifists had remained loyal to their peace professions, and those of this party present condemned the war against Turkey and the attempt to justify it as strongly as anybody else in the Congress. When the question of Morocco and of Egypt came up there was also some disorder, but nothing of any serious character. Many members of the peace party in different countries have thought that such questions should be excluded from the Peace Congress as being exclusively national questions. Others feel that most of these questions have an international side, and that the friends of peace should insist on justice being done to the aspirations of semi-independent peoples, and thus causes of illwill and of possible war be removed. This latter view has more and more developed in the peace congresses, and this year this class of subjects threatened at one time to consume the whole time of the sessions.

It must not be inferred from the notices which appeared in some of the American papers that the Congress was a bear-garden, in which the animals were daily at each other's throats. Nothing of the sort was true. Lively and exciting as were some of the discussions, a spirit of good feeling and fairness generally prevailed, and the Congress closed in the best of temper all round.

The interest and value of the Congress were much increased by the public meetings, receptions, concerts, and excursions which were organized in connection with it. In these the delegates extended their acquaintance and cultivated and deepened their sense of unity and fellowship.

The Committee on Organization gave the delegates a warm reception, with tea and speeches, at the Athénée on Sunday evening before the formal opening on Monday. The reception, which was most cordial and made the delegates feel at home, was held in the room in which the Red Cross Convention had its birth. On Monday afternoon a visit to prominent historic sites in the city was made by the delegates under the guidance of those "who knew." On Monday evening an organ concert was given the delegates in the Cathedral. On Tuesday afternoon a reception was given the Congress by the city authorities at the Ariana, a fine museum and park in the outskirts of the city. Tuesday evening a public meeting was held in the University Hall, at which exceptionally fine addresses were delivered by

Senator La Fontaine, of Belgium, and Dr. Charles Richet, of the University of Paris. On Wednesday evening a concert was given in Victoria Hall by the musical societies of Geneva, at which an eloquent and powerful peace address was delivered by Madame Séverine, the distinguished woman journalist of Paris. The whole day Thursday was devoted to a grand tour of the lake, in which nearly all of the delegates participated. The tour included a visit to the famous old Castle of Chillon, and a reception at Ouchy, the port of Lausanne, by the Vaudoise Peace Society. On the return to Geneva in the evening the excursionists were welcomed back by a grand illumination of the bridges and quays. On Friday evening a meeting was held in the great hall of the *Maison Communale de Plainpalais*, at which fine music was rendered by two of the leading musical societies of Geneva and addresses were delivered by Dr. G. B. Clark for England, Dr. L. Quidde for Germany, Mr. Emile Arnaud for France, and Benjamin F. Trueblood for the United States. The great audience was made up nearly entirely of members of the Geneva Section of the Swiss Peace Society, who had been specially invited.

In the same hall, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, the closing banquet of the Congress took place on Saturday at 1 o'clock. During the banquet a number of telegrams addressed to the Congress were read by Professor Favre, chairman of the Committee on Organization. Brief remarks were made by Mr. Arnaud, Senator La Fontaine, Madame Séverine, and others. Mr. Henri Fazy, president of the Swiss State Council, urged the pacifists to endeavor to create in their different countries an increasingly strong public opinion in favor of peace. Mr. Quartier-la Tente, the president of the Congress, who presided over the meetings with dignity, tact, and impartiality, in closing the Congress expressed his great appreciation of the peace movement and his hope for its entire success.

Further interesting details will be found in our Notes on the Congress.

### President Taft's Services to the Cause of International Peace.

The American Peace Society is not affiliated with any political party. It would not be true to its ancient principles, however, were it to pass unnoticed at this time President William Howard Taft's services in behalf of international fraternity. These services have been conspicuous because of his active repudiation of the intolerable theory of militarism, and because of his earnest and intelligent attempts to vitalize international peace in terms of the concrete.

President Taft is a growing, progressive man in his conceptions of the world's peace and the means by which this is to be established. In May, 1909, he wrote to the Chicago Peace Congress a cordial letter in which, however, he indirectly subscribed to the policy of "excepting